

# Richmond Authoresses Hold High Place in World of Literature



MRS. KATE LANGLEY BOSHER.

MISS FLORENCE SELDEN PEPLÉ.

MARY JOHNSTON.

MRS. SALLY NELSON ROBINS.

ELLEN GLASGOW.

The fact that three out of the "six Carys" best sellers in the recent annual book market were by Richmond women calls attention to the authoresses generally of Virginia's capital, all of whom are more or less successful and are doing good work. Taking them alphabetically, one comes first to Mrs. Kate Langley Boshier, whose novel, "Miss Gibbie Gault," was one of the trio crowned with such distinction—a distinction ushered in by the popularity of "Mary Cary," which preceded it. Of the latter Mrs. Boshier says: "While I have long written in a desultory way, this book was the first which I ever took up with a definite aim. Watching the children of an orphanage go by in an institutional garb, my sympathies were stirred. I wondered how I should feel if my individuality were thus suppressed—to lie down, to rise, to play in a body and at the ringing of a bell. Never to wander alone at impulse, never to consult one's taste in food or dress, and above all, never to confide one's childish wrongs or sorrows to a sympathetic mother, but to a matron or a board. With a strong effort of the imagination I projected myself into this institutional life, the outcome being 'Mary

Gault," both appearing when childhood study in every aspect was a paramount question, and having this quality of timeliness, the result was inevitable. Letters poured in upon Mrs. Boshier from every quarter, the assurance of her usefulness to workers along this line, one of these buying both books by the half-dozen and leaving them with the heads of institutions. But in addition to their timeliness they have the merit of a wholesome cheerfulness which "has all reasons for its own," and which is welcome everywhere, and in this connection Mrs. Boshier says: "My desire is to convey a message of cheer to my readers, and I will not write a dreary book. When I find myself drifting away from this resolve, I lay my pen down until I can again get into the prescribed channel."

Mrs. Boshier is a sun-worshiper, doing her work in a big bay window, which, by the way, overlooks the home of Valentine, the sculptor, diagonally opposite. At present she is engaged upon a novel, "The Man in Lonely Land," to come out this spring, while flattering applications come



ANNIE STEGAR WINSTON.

to her from editors and publishers, band and Saturdays to a supervision of her household affairs. She is a many-sided woman, but "home comes first," and one is assured by the at-



MISS MARY COLES CARRINGTON.

tention to details in her tasteful surroundings—even to the effective placing of a bunch of spring flowers—that this is not a mere becoming

sentiment. Mary Coles Carrington, whose writings are indorsed by the first magazines in the country, is the only poetess at present engaged in literary work in Richmond. While at school Miss Carrington, who is an accomplished pianist, devoted special attention to music, and after her graduation went to Germany, where she continued the study under a master. While abroad she wrote for local papers, thus trying her wings for higher flights, and later appeared in Appleton in an essay of marked originality, entitled "Old Age." Versification seems, however, the channel most clearly cut by nature for her expressions, and through it her thoughts flow with rhythmic force. Her power of impersonation, with its twin gift, versatility, is apparent to the most superficial reader, and she now voices (in dialect possible only to the Southern reader) the weariness of the old colored mammy, "So tith, an' honin' fer de golden streets," the careless gaiety of "Tucky Rose" in her quest for some errand bird; or the meandering thoughts of a child crudely illustrated with pencil and late Major Isaac Carrington, of the passionate love songs, sympathetically interpreted some kindred spirit—Wordsworth or Cowper; or getting close to the heart of nature—as only a poet can—renders articulate her varying moods—the freakish March wind, the twilight hour, the witchery of flower-gemmed forest, or the deep sayings of the sea. Miss Carrington illustrates Carlyle's theory that no one of parts comes of stupid people. She is a great-granddaughter of Governor Cabell, of Virginia, and of Judge Carrington, of the State Supreme Court; and a daughter of the late Major Isaac Carrington, of the prominent Richmond law firm of Ould & Carrington. Through her mother she is descended from the poet Lovelace; is a great-niece of Hon. James Seddon, Jefferson Davis's Secretary of State, and a son-in-law of Anne Seddon Bruce, the first wife of Thomas Nelson Page and the inspiration of his earlier books. She has spoken to the public in genuine voice, not in echo, and cannot fall of a hearing.

sentiment.

Nothing can tell life of its compensations, and none among the "happy people whose annals are tireless" could have written "Scuffling Her Way," a serial by Mrs. Sally Nelson Robins, assistant secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, running through the last issues of the "Housewife," and with unique exchange of roles introducing it to an extended circle. Nothing succeeding like success, Mrs. Robins is now receiving overtures from editors and, too, from publishers, wishing to buy her story in book form. Her friends are saying that the point from which her heroine emigrates is like Gloucester county, Va., her own birthplace, that Bollingbrook resembles Richmond, and that the "Scuffling" is none other than the authoress herself, statements which she neither affirms nor denies. Sally Barkley Nelson, with such ancestors as William Nelson, of Yorktown; King Carter, Lewis Burwell and Speaker Robinson, of the House of Burgesses, was born at Timber Neck, on Williams Bay, designated as the scene of Smith's rescue of Pocahontas, and being orphaned, was reared by her grandparents, and educated by a tutor and at Mrs. Letitia "Fie" Sumner's School in Baltimore. When very young she married the late William Todd Robins, and later removing to Richmond in the interest of a flock of small children, found herself by some sweeping bias bereft of means and with an invalid husband, and resolved not to part with the world. The first plank usually seized is the keeping of boarders, from which she was assisted by the offer of her present position. While filling it she has prepared papers for those wishing to join the Colonial Dames and kindred associations. She has also written for the press, and for four years has edited the Genealogical Department of The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"All styles," according to Dr. Johnson, "are good, save the tiresome style," and there is not a tiresome line in "Scuffling Her Way." Domestic legends, through the enchantment of the eyes, and the eloquent charm of reminiscences or exquisitely funny stories. There is deep pathos, too, in its pages, as in the death of "Sandy," pathetic too deep to dwell upon in critical dissection, and with sudden smarting of the eyes, and the eloquent tribute of a tear, one hurries on.

Cally Ryland, who in ten years' editorship of the woman's page of a Richmond daily, has shown "staying qualities" far beyond the ordinary, is another busy woman finding time to devote to literature, having not only contributed to magazines, including the Century, but published in book form aphorisms in negro dialect; a child's story; and, in collaboration with Mrs. M. J. Lagan, of Philadelphia, a novel "The Dreamer," with decided talent, Miss Ryland combines great perseverance and industry, factors which must produce results.

St. Paul recognizes the married woman's hindrances to singleness of aim, and with household cares upon her and many outside demands, all of Mrs. W. G. Standard's literary work is done at night. While at the Leach-Wood School in Norfolk, where her father, the late John B. Newton, afterwards bishop-coadjutor of Virginia, was in charge of St. Luke's Church, she carried off prizes for compositions, the stupendous stone of her graduation to magazine work. Since her marriage, she has written with her husband, the secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, a valuable book for genealogical reference; and during the Jamestown Exposition published in book form a delightful "Bacon and His Rebellion." If it most original and artistic work is, however, "The Dreamer," a romantic rendering of the life of Poe, given a welcome in England, and of such general interest as to commend it to all lovers of a good novel.

Annie Stegar Winston, daughter of Professor Charles H. Winston, of Richmond College, and author of "Memories of a Child," a psychological study, has preserved her memory sealed in some respectacle of the memory the very essence of childhood to be analyzed by her more mature mind. The book, without, as we believe, a parallel in literature, is a classic with vitality sufficient to enable it to survive changes in taste and thought. The praise which it evokes comes from the highest authorities, a

Of the two novelists, Ellen Glasgow and Mary Johnston, who with Mrs. Boshier formed the successful trio in the commercial book world, so much little is said of which the public is unaware. Miss Glasgow, who is at work upon a book, describing herself as "desperately busy," is keeping house temporarily in New York in an apartment overlooking Central Park, where she takes her daily exercise. All writers know the relief of space in which the eye may wander, and she says: "My desk stands by a window from which I have a lovely view of pine trees and green fields; I have a great many friends here, which keeps me from being homesick; the climate is stimulating and suits me; I cannot complain of my place with Richmond, which I look upon as home."

Carlyle declares that author best who may be most quoted, and judged by that standard her books, abounding in epigrams, rank high. But whatever their merit—attractive in appearance with natural, winning manners—they can never overshadow her charming personality.

Mrs. Johnston, engaged upon another novel, brings to bear upon her work—a one may judge from appearance—a degree of physical health and vigor never before possessed by her, and those who recall the frail woman of a decade ago—impressing Richmond society much as did the Brontës—startle the fashionable world of London—would find little to suggest her in Miss Johnston of to-day. With her last book the public is familiar either through newspaper criticisms or at first-hand, and the coming one must speak through the same medium or for itself.

In her pretty apartment, her sunny sitting-room, her dainty blue and white kitchen and rose-colored bedroom—Florence Selden Peple, who is perhaps "never less alone than when alone," has transplanted a bit of the Latin quarter into conservative Richmond. An accomplished cat sharer, her solitude, brought up like Pippa, "hand," as she kneels before him he erects himself, patting her on either cheek with loving velvet-sheathed paws; then with change of mood, assuming the pose of a boxer, strikes out or parries a thrust from his opponent, who does not always come out unscathed from these encounters. A gift to him to a rat, made by herself, so realistic that it electrifies him as she throws it upon the floor, which on first introduction he barely escapes suicide by his prompt seizure, in the act of swallowing of its tail.

Mrs. Peple's father, the late Gustavus Adolphus Peple, of an aristocratic Belgian family, and the godson of Gustavus Adolphus, son of Gustavus IV. of Sweden, was a painter and a writer, and her mother, of the prominent Lowndes family of Maryland, was a poetess, letters to her from Longfellow and Oliver Wendell Holmes being among her daughter's treasures. The children, therefore, were "born with lucky stars" in their hands, one of them being Edward Peple, of New York, author of

HOME EDITION

## Furniture News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON SUNDAY

VOL. I.

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1912

NO. 3

### PETTIT'S EASTER PRIZE

A Handsome Baby Carriage Awarded to the First Baby Born on Easter Morn.

For the last three weeks much interest has been manifested as to the prize which Pettit & Company advertised to be awarded to the Easter baby. The interest aroused was evidenced by the many people who made the trip to the store to view the handsome baby carriage which was displayed in the show-case placed in the vestibule of the store. To date twelve applicants for the prize have been received for babies born after midnight April 6th.

The prize was awarded to the family whom the stork visited at 1:15 A. M.—Mrs. Lindsay P. Ward, 1709 West Cary Street.

### THE HOME BEAUTIFUL

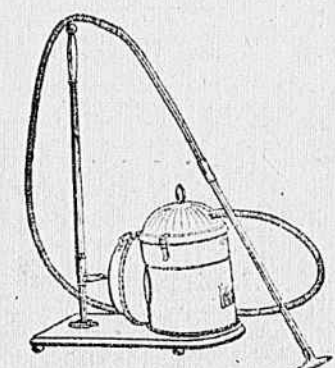
Furniture That Conforms with the Decorations.

No matter what the effect to be created or the color scheme in mind in furnishing the home, the splendid assortment of furniture at the Pettit store affords a means of carrying any idea into execution. The stock includes all the styles of various periods, in all woods and finishes.

### A MODERATE PRICED VACUUM CLEANER

On Easy Payments.

The family that can afford the expense of brooms can now afford a Vacuum Cleaner. By new methods of construction, the simplifying of parts and reductions in the cost of material, the "Ideal" Vacuum Cleaner is now within the reach of every one. Added to the exceptionally low price, Pettit & Company are offering these Cleaners on the easy-payment plan.



The advantages of vacuum cleaning are universally known. With the Vacuum Cleaner, there is absolutely no dust to settle on the furniture and to be breathed by the housewife, dust that contains millions of germs, and

which has been proven by scientific investigations to be most unsanitary. The Vacuum Cleaner is the only method of cleaning that does the work thoroughly—not packing the dirt into the nap of the carpet or rug, but drawing out every particle at a minimum of exertion.

The Ideal Vacuum Cleaner demonstrated by Pettit & Company is light in weight, and therefore easily portable. It is easy running and requires very little effort to operate. By a unique construction of the pump, a very powerful vacuum is created, which makes the "Ideal" highly efficient.

The "Ideal" Vacuum Cleaner will be placed in any home for one week's free trial, and will be demonstrated at Pettit & Company's store.

### A GAS RANGE THAT IS DIFFERENT

Patented Improvements.

The "New Method" shown in the accompanying illustration is, in fact, a range that is different. It possesses distinctive features—improvements over other types that are protected by

patents, and which for that reason are exclusive with the "New Method." The burners at top and also those incorporated in the oven are so arranged that the heat may be regulated, allowing a wide range of cooking with the "New Method." This feature also serves the purpose of reducing the consumption of gas. As an actual fact, the "New Method" will save 25 per cent. in gas bills.

The Oven.

By the method of flues in the oven,



### EASY PAYMENTS

Pettit & Company's Method.

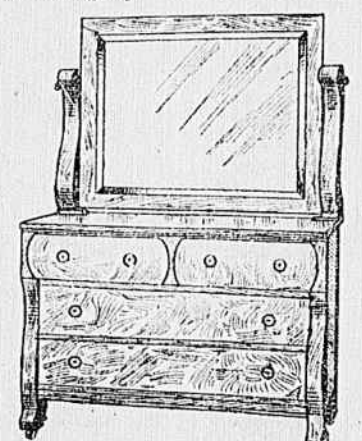
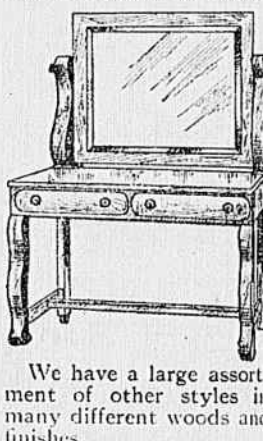
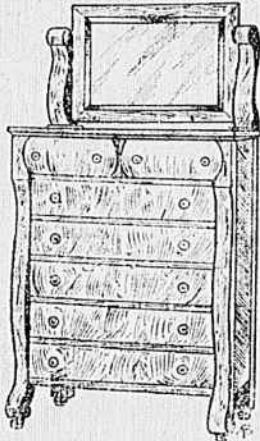
A distinctive feature of Pettit & Company, which has made it one of the most popular furniture stores in the city, is their plan of easy payments. The amount and the time of payments rests entirely with the purchaser.

This easy-payment plan, coupled with the exceptionally low prices afforded, makes Pettit & Company the ideal store at which to furnish the home. Every article in stock is plainly marked and liberal discounts are allowed for cash payments.

The same courtesy is accorded to the purchaser of a small amount as that given to one making a large purchase.

### BED ROOM FURNITURE

The popular styles in Furniture to-day are the revival of the old periods. The Bedroom Suit here shown is the Colonial style, with the graceful rolled standards and uprights and square full size mirrors. This style is made in Circassian Walnut and Mahogany.



We have a large assortment of other styles in many different woods and finishes.

PETTIT &amp; COMPANY

FOUSHEE AND BROAD ST.

**Pettit and Company**

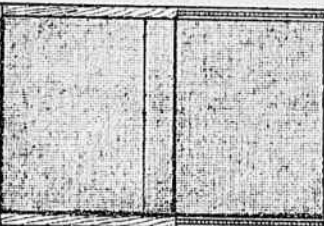
FOUSHEE AND BROAD STS.

The Store That Lives Up to Its Advertising

Publicity Bureau

### Adjustable Window Screens

Means of protection should be adopted now before the summer season and the advent of the flies. The adjustable screen, here shown, will fit the average window—the



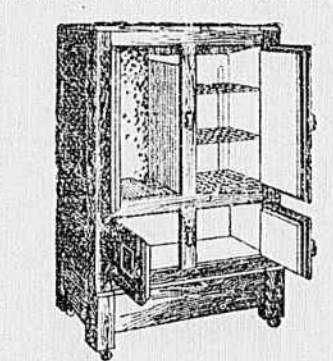
size extended being 24x33 inches. This screen will save a big item of expense, as it is adjustable to almost any size window.

A special price has been made for the coming week, and as only a small quantity is on hand, purchases had better be made at once.

While They Last 29c

### A SANITARY REFRIGERATOR

Every part of the "Gibson" Refrigerator is easily removed, and the entire refrigerator, for that reason, can be thoroughly cleaned, making it always sanitary. Interior walls between the inner lining and outer case are double insulated with charcoal, which retains cold air inside and excludes the outer warmth. The refrigerator is equipped with a series of



vents. This unique feature insures a constant and thorough circulation of cool air from the ice chamber, which serves the double purpose of economizing in the consumption of ice and keeping the food sweet and wholesome in the warmest of weather.

The refrigerator shown in the accompanying illustration is one of the many sizes and styles in stock—this one being adapted to the ordinary family. The price of this refrigerator for the coming week will be \$5.95—one of the exceptional values offered by Pettit & Company, and effective for one week only.